

REMARKS

Claims 6-14 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5 have been amended and are now pending for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants request Examiner's reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection based on 35 USC § 112:

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 first paragraph and second paragraph for the reasons set forth on page 2-8 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 1-4 to delete the term "prodrug thereof". Applicants believe the rejections therefore do not apply to the amended claims 1-4 and request that it be withdrawn.

Rejection based on 35 USC § 103:

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 over *Sarges et al*, for the reasons set forth on page 8-10 of the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended to exclude the compounds of formula (I) wherein R^a is H, R^b is H or isopropyl and R¹ is halogen. Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1. Claim 4 has been amended to delete the first, second and fourth compounds in the list accordingly. Applicants believe that the claims 1-4 as amended are not obvious over *Sarges et al* and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable subject matter:

Claim 5-9 were considered eligible for rejoinder upon amendments of claims 1-4 as set forth on page 10 of the Office Action. Claim 5 is rejoined and also amended to delete the terms "prodrug thereof". Claims 6-9 have been cancelled.

Claims 2-4 have also been amended to correct antecedent bases.

Conclusion:

In light of the preceding remarks of this Response, Applicants believe that all claims pending are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that a Notice of Allowance be issued timely. If the above remarks are not to the satisfaction of the Examiner, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

If any fees other than those provided herein are due in connection with this response,
please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 500329.

Respectfully submitted,

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